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MEXICO.

Relative to inspection of vessels at Vera Cruz.

VERA CRUZ, MEXICO, January 22, 1897.

GENERAL: I beg to acknowledge receipt of letter from your office dated January 8, 1897.

I have given the subject of better inspection service much thought, but as there will be another consul here before long I would rather leave any recommendations that may be made to him, informing him what, in my opinion, should be done. Should I make any recommendation it would be to arrange with one of the national medical officers here to inspect the vessels bound for the United States, and the consul act on his report. The cost would be little. I think it could be done, boat hire and all, for about five hundred dollars (\$500) per annum. I would expect consul to go with the medical officer whenever he could do so, especially in the unhealthy months of the year, or as soon as yellow fever appeared. At present there is no great danger as all vessels discharge cargo and lie in open bay, crews are prevented from coming ashore, and the inspection by the health officer of vessels entering is very thorough, thus causing the vessel to use great care with regard to sanitary measures. The taking on board of contagious diseases is in this way in a great measure prevented, but within the next year or two the docks in course of construction may be finished, and vessels discharging and taking cargo therefrom, crews mingling with the people, and the easy way for sailors to go to the lowest haunts of the city and contract disease—all this will likely have a tendency to make it more dangerous to the health of the vessel and increase the risk of taking contagious diseases to the United States.

My method has been to inquire of the health officer as to the sanitary condition of vessel on her arrival; in the hot months to make a personal inspection. This inspection consists in examining the quarters of the men, tasting water and food, looking over the crew to see whether they appear ill or not, and examining the ship as to cleanliness. If I find a man ill aboard I ask for a physician's certificate stating his condition, etc. I think the fact that the consul comes aboard to inspect the vessel has a tendency to cause more care on the part of officers and crew, and is really a good thing.

I am, General, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHARLES SCHAEFER,
United States Consul.

TURKEY.

Quarantine regulations against introduction of plague.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, February 10, 1897.

SIR: The Department is in receipt of a dispatch from the United States minister at Constantinople, No. 1146, of the 23d ultimo, transmitting copy of a circular note from the ministry of foreign affairs of Turkey and of the new regulations for quarantine in the Persian Gulf to guard against the plague now prevailing in India.

I have the honor to inclose herewith a translation of the latter documents for the information of the Marine Hospital Service.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

HON. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

RICHARD OLNEY.

[Inclosure.]

Circular note.

JANUARY 22, 1897.

The ministry of foreign affairs has the honor to transmit herewith to the United States of America the new regulations issued by the superior council of health at its meeting of the 19th instant, providing for prophylactic measures against the plague prevailing in Bombay, with respect to vessels coming from India and the Persian Gulf coast, which pass through the Suez Canal, and the establishment of a sanitary station in the Persian Gulf where all vessels coming from India should be detained. As these measures are intended to protect Europe and the Ottoman Empire from the epidemic, they should be enforced as soon as possible to effect the advantages which may be expected from them.

The Imperial Government hopes that the United States Government, being anxious to protect the public health against disease, will approve the wishes of the sanitary council by giving it aid in promptly furnishing instructions to the United States sanitary inspector on the subject.

REGULATIONS BY THE SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF HEALTH ISSUED AT ITS MEETING ON
THE 19TH OF JANUARY, 1897.

The superior council of health, considering that the measures actually taken at the entrance of the Suez Canal with regard to vessels arriving from India and the coast of the Persian Gulf, and passing the canal in order to go to Europe, and which do not observe proper sanitary precautions, desires that all vessels proceeding from the above places must, in consequence of a joint agreement between the Imperial Government, the British Government, and the Khedival Government, undergo at Aden a quarantine with disinfection, the period of detention remaining to be fixed.

In order to avoid the obstruction in that port, the detention of vessels carrying pilgrims already subjected to medical examination at Aden can be dispensed with in the future and should go direct to the hospital at Camaran.

The superior council of health, in expressing this wish, which the Imperial Government may kindly communicate to the foreign Powers, considers it also as its duty to point out the danger threatening the Persian and Ottoman territories from the lack of sanitary provisions at the entrance of the Persian Gulf, and expresses the wish that a supplementary study be made in a short time for the selection of a sanitary station, the position of which should command the access to the Persian Gulf, and in which all vessels coming from India should be detained in order to receive permission of access to the ports in the Gulf.

STATISTICAL REPORTS.

AUSTRALIA—*Brisbane*.—Month of November, 1896. Estimated population, 93,657. Total deaths, 99, including 4 from enteric fever.

New South Wales—Newcastle.—Month of December, 1896. Estimated population, 15,331. Total deaths, 24. No deaths reported from contagious diseases.

BERMUDA.—Two weeks ended January 29, 1897. Estimated population, 15,013. One death. No death from contagious disease.

GREAT BRITAIN—*England and Wales*.—The deaths registered in 33 great towns of England and Wales during the week ended January 30 correspond to an annual rate of 20.6 a thousand of the aggregate population, which is estimated at 10,992,524. The highest rate was recorded in Plymouth, viz, 33.6, and the lowest in Croydon, viz, 10.8 a thousand.

London.—One thousand seven hundred and two deaths were registered during the week, including smallpox, 1; measles, 13; scarlet fever, 13; diphtheria, 53; whooping cough, 47; enteric fever, 7, and diarrhea and dysentery, 11. The deaths from all causes correspond to an annual rate of 18.1 a thousand. In greater London 2,154 deaths were registered, cor-